



Vessel storage may be subject to local building codes, zoning ordinances, and fire codes. Check with municipal building department for requirements.

Winterizing Vessels

Potential Environmental Impacts:

The activity of preparing a vessel for winter storage may contribute to nonpoint source pollution through the use of heavy equipment (fork lifts, cranes and travel lifts) as well as through various storage procedures (use of antifreeze and battery storage).

Legal Requirements:

- Please see referenced fact sheets for legal requirements for specific winterizing activities.

Best Management Practices:

- ★ Use propylene glycol antifreeze (usually pink) which is less toxic than ethylene glycol (usually green) to winterize all systems except “closed” or freshwater cooling systems. See “Antifreeze” fact sheet for more information.
- ★ Inspect and clean bilges prior to extended vessel storage. Clean all water, oil, or foreign materials from the bilge using absorbent material. See “Bilge Cleaning” fact sheet for more information.
- ★ Promote reusable or recyclable boat covers. See “Shrink Wrap” fact sheet for more information.
- ★ See also “Pressure Washing,” “Decommissioning Engines,” “Oil Changes” and “Battery Replacement” fact sheets for more information on these activities.

Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

No Clean Marina certification criteria specific to winterizing vessels.